

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of	)	Group Art Unit:
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Ruedi Hess et al.	)	Examiner:
	)	
Application No.:	)	Confirmation No.:
	)	
Filed: September 28, 2006	)	
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For: END CONNECTION	)	
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination, kindly amend the above-captioned application as follows: